

## Andrew Jackson to Unknown, February 11, 1807, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

1 Printed by favor of Mr. Alwin J. Scheuer, its possessor.

Nashville, February 11, 1807.

*Dear Genl.* , I hasten to announce to you, the pleasing information, that Colo. A. Burr on the 16th ulto, surrendered himself, to the civil authority at Washington five mile from Natchez, that on the second instant his trial was to commence. he is now under an investigation, ordained by our constitution, to protect innocence and punish guilt. Wilkingson is summoned as a witness against him—says a letter to me of the 26th Ult. and adds "but it is thought he will not attend." the publick will soon know, whether the confidence of the government in Wilkingson is well placed or not. The inclosed paper will give you a full detail of the conduct and surrender of Burr, his force etc. Tranquility is now restored in Natchez, but in Orleans, report states there is nothing but distrust, disquietude, and comotion. a serious quarrel has arisen between Govr. Claibourne and Wilkingson. it is stated, that this dispute took place in the court house and that the Govr. slapt him in the face—the last part of this is not well authenticated, but that they have had a violent dispute I believe is true as it comes from Mr. Deadedredge of Nashville 2 who was in Orleans at the time.

It is repeated in every letter from the City that Genl. Wilkingson stands high in the confidence of the executive—rest assured, that that confidence is not well placed. the Western people since the investigation of the Spanish associates in Kentuckey, all in one voice deprecate the man and view him as a Spanish hireling, and in a few days, the Reverend

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2 George M. Deadrick; see vol. I., p. 56.

Thos. B. Craigheds deposition will be taken. 3 he will positively prove that Wilkingson, the last time he returned from Neworleans, say in 1790 or 1791, wore suspended from his neck a Major's commission which he said him self was given him by the then Spanish Governor. add this to the other proofes, and what ideas will the[y] bring to the mind—view his Robertesperian conduct in Neworleans, denouncing Bollman as a traitor, 4 and Snatching him from the Jaws of the civil authority the only power competant to punish, and at a time that 48 hours could have proved his guilt and suspended him in the streets of Neworleans as a fit example for the moment. This stride of military despotism it is expected will be duly noticed by the legislature of the union. Should it not, it will have effects injurious to our government and will destroy that confidence that at present exists in the administration. What! a military charactor trample under foot all civil authority, when no insurrection or impedement existed to the due execution of the law—and this pass unnoticed under a republican administration. This is not believed, but if it should happen, it will have a banefull effect, and you may rest assured, that the Western people have no confidence in Wilkingson.

3 (Later.)

4 Justus Erich Bollman, whom (and John Swartwout) Wilkinson arrested in Louisiana.

I am sir yours with Esteem